

To: R7 Daily Digest Group[R7_Daily_Digest_Group@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Fri 9/5/2014 9:45:48 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/5/14

OPA Daily Digest for 9/5/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Dave Loebsack (Iowa) – Letter – 9/4/14: Redevelopment of former RCRA site Elkem Metals Company in Keokuk. Due: 9/19/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine – Email – 8/21/14: Requesting briefing for the Missouri Lead Industry Employment, Economic Development & Environmental Remediation Task Force on 9/9/14. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Burlington Hawk Eye (Iowa) – Kathleen Finn – 9/2/14: Questions regarding Univar RCRA site. Contact: David Bryan, 7322 (open)

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis – Grant Bissell – 9/4/14: Questions regarding barrier constructions. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Suburban Journals (St. Louis) - State consultant says Bridgeton Landfill fire spreading north - 9/5/14 - The consultant hired by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources says the “subsurface fire” at the Bridgeton Landfill is expanding and moving closer to the radioactive West Lake Landfill. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/state-consultant-says-bridgeton-landfill-fire-spreading-north/article_1913a2e4-bcf5-51c1-8827-658fe5469b59.html

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - West Lake landfill barrier construction delayed - 9/5/14 - A major development at the troubled Bridgeton and West Lake landfills in St. Louis County. A plan has been delayed to build a barrier wall that would separate an underground fire from radioactive waste. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/09/04/west-lake-landfill-barrier-construction-delayed/15111959/>

Associated Press - Construction on landfill barrier still months away - 9/4/14 - It will be at least a year and a half until construction starts on a barrier between smoldering at a suburban St. Louis landfill and radioactive waste buried at an adjacent landfill. <http://fox2now.com/2014/09/04/construction-on-landfill-barrier-still-months-away/>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Bridgeton Landfill Sparking New Worries - 9/4/14 - New worries today about the burning Bridgeton landfill, including where the fire is, and how much time it might take to build a firebreak trench to isolate the nuclear waste. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/09/04/bridgeton-landfill-sparking-new-worries/>

Des Moines Register - Report: Iowa needs better water improvement assessment - 9/5/14 - A new report says Iowa and other Midwestern states need to better monitor and assess work they are doing to reduce nutrient pollution contributing to the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/09/05/report-critical-of-iowa-other-states-nutrient-reduction-efforts/15134641/>

High Plains Journal - Water issues are important to EPA, new Iowa alliance - 9/5/14 -

Farmers are concerned about the potential changes by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the waters of the United States. EPA Region 7 administrator Karl Brooks visited the Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa, Aug. 27, to discuss some of these changes with farmers.

<http://www.hpj.com/archives/2014/sep14/sep8/0903EPAWatersIssuesJCrt1pix.cfm?t=Water-issues-are-important-to-EPA,-new-Iowa-alliance>

Nebraska Watchdog - State, landowners make cases on Keystone XL to Nebraska Supreme Court - 9/5/14 - The Nebraska Supreme Court heard arguments Friday on the case the Obama administration is waiting on before deciding whether to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada across America. <http://watchdog.org/169025/keystone-xl-3/?roi=echo3-22208218907-22201321-0a8ace6b0073853f1e9c4f6c33b3c490>

KTIV Ch. 4 Sioux City, Iowa - DNR officials are monitoring a creek in Storm Lake, IA after a sewage leak - 9/4/14 - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is keeping a close watch on a creek in Storm Lake, Iowa after a sewage leak. <http://www.ktiv.com/story/26448111/2014/09/04/dnr-officials-are-monitoring-a-creek-in-storm-lake-ia-after-a-sewage-leak>

Kansas Agland - EPA waters of the US - 9/5/14 - When Derek Sawyer and other Kansas farmers learned the Environmental Protection Agency, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, had proposed a Clean Water Act rule that could reclassify ditches, gradient terrace channels, intermittent streams or even flooded fields as a federal waterway, they began to take action. http://www.kansasagland.com/news/stateagnews/epa-waters-of-the-us/article_1dfdaeac-7529-53d0-89da-7269ecfd7baf.html

Kansas Agland - Change would have broad reach - 9/4/14 - Greg Foley, director of the Division of Conservation for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, said state officials estimate the number of miles of regulated waterways in the state would rise from about 35,000 to roughly 139,000. Some of these waterways flow only a few times a decade, he said. http://www.kansasagland.com/news/stateagnews/change-would-have-broad-reach/article_7a2b4af2-dd97-5b91-a946-ebcda13fc368.html

AgWeb - Perspective: We've Got Trouble in River City - 9/4/14 - With a capital "T" and that rhymes with "P," and that stands for ... phosphorus! Well, nitrogen (N) too, but that ruins The Music Man monologue. Broadway aside, farmers in the Mississippi River watershed have a big

problem they are not discussing.

http://www.agweb.com/article/perspective_weve_got_trouble_in_river_city_NAA_John_Phipps/

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - City's new well will prevent drought shortages, mayor says -

9/4/14 - A new well in the Platte River wellfield will help ensure that residents will have a reliable water supply, even during droughts, according to Mayor Chris Beutler.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/city-s-new-well-will-prevent-drought-shortages-mayor-says/article_fa1c1e2b-c81f-5013-9074-9a98a99d7a14.html

Daily Iowan Ethics & Politics Initiative - EPA roiling the U.S. waters - 9/3/14 - Iowa farmers say that if a new EPA proposal takes effect, their fields could be considered regulated water bodies — which could drastically change the way they do business.

<http://www.dailyiowanepi.com/2014/09/03/epa-roiling-the-u-s-waters/>

Associated Press - US investigating Kansas chemical company - 9/3/14 - U.S. environmental regulators are investigating a Kansas chemical manufacturing company over allegations it unlawfully disposed of fluids down a well in violation of federal safe drinking water laws, search warrants unsealed Wednesday show. <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/09/03/4326056/us-investigating-kansas-chemical.html>

U.S. News & World Report - EPA Setting Its Sights on Methane | The agency appears to be laying the groundwork for new measures aimed at reining in the greenhouse gas - 9/4/14 -

The Environmental Protection Agency may be turning an eye toward curtailing emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said this week. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/09/04/environmental-protection-agency-setting-its-sights-on-methane>

National Geographic - EPA Considering Lower Ozone Standard, Methane Strategy - 9/4/14 -

In its Policy Assessment for the Review of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards report—released Friday—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests revising the health-based national ambient air quality standard for ozone.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2014/09/04/epa-considering-lower-ozone-standard-methane-strategy/>

Natural Gas Intelligence - Methane Emissions Strategy Due in Coming Weeks, EPA Administrator Says - 9/4/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this fall will release a strategy to deal with methane emissions from natural gas and oil pipelines and wells that may include both regulatory approaches and recommended voluntary steps, according to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. <http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/99602-methane-emissions-strategy-due-in-coming-weeks-epa-administrator-says>

Agri-Pulse - USDA awards loan guarantee for jet fuel biorefinery - 9/4/14 - USDA is awarding Fulcrum Sierra Biofuels LLC a loan guarantee for \$105 million to build a biorefinery to produce jet fuel from municipal solid waste. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the award today in a speech at the National Energy Conference in Las Vegas. <http://www.agripulse.com/USDA-awards-loan-guarantee-for-jet-fuel-biorefinery-9042014.asp>

Science - More than twice as much mercury in environment as thought - 9/4/14 - The most comprehensive estimate of mercury released into the environment is putting a new spotlight on the potent neurotoxin. <http://news.sciencemag.org/environment/2014/09/more-twice-much-mercury-environment-thought>

Iowa Farm Bureau - Iowa Farm Bureau Voting Delegates Meet to Set 2015 State and National Policy Direction - 9/4/14 - Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) voting delegates met in West Des Moines this week to develop policy direction on issues important to farmers and all Iowans. Topping discussion this year: the need to assess Iowa's watersheds to better understand conservation progress, and policies designed to solve energy transportation issues. <http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/articles/126709/conservation-and-energy-top-discussions-at-2014-iowa-farm-bureau-summer-policy-conference>

GigaOm - Hillary Clinton: America can be the world's clean energy superpower - 9/4/14 - Hillary Clinton spoke at Harry Reid's clean energy conference and called on the U.S. to lead the clean energy economy. <http://gigaom.com/2014/09/04/hillary-clinton-america-can-be-the-worlds-clean-energy-superpower/>

Bloomberg - Aircraft Emissions May Be Next for U.S. Climate Rules - 9/4/14 - Aircraft may be next in line for U.S. regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions, as President Barack Obama's administration broadens its climate-change efforts beyond automobiles and power plants. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-04/aircraft-emissions-may-be-next-for-u-s-climate-rules.html>

Center for Biological Diversity - EPA Announces First Steps to Cut Carbon Pollution From Aircraft - 9/4/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it has begun a domestic rulemaking process to determine whether the fast-growing carbon emissions from American aircraft endanger public health and welfare.
http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2014/aircraft-emissions-09-04-2014.html

Bloomberg - Dirtiest U.S. Coal Becoming Most Popular on EPA Rules - 9/5/14 - The dirtiest coal in the U.S. is becoming the most popular, thanks to tightening emission standards forcing power plants to reduce pollutants. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-05/dirtiest-u-s-coal-becoming-most-popular-on-epa-rules.html>

Huffington Post - Challenges to EPA's Proposed Carbon Rules: What If They Succeed? - 9/4/14 - Members of Congress from states that mine or use a lot of coal are trying to halt the Clean Power Plan, and already three lawsuits have been filed against it. These lawsuits may well be dismissed as premature; ordinarily suits cannot be brought against regulations that are not yet final. But what happens if any of these challenges is successful?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-b-gerrard/challenges-to-epas-propos_b_5698336.html

The Hill - EPA moves toward regulating jet fumes - 9/4/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday took a step toward crafting regulations for greenhouse gas emissions from aircrafts. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216665-epa-moves-toward-regulating-aircraft-emissions>

Union of Concerned Scientists (blog) - How Many Homes Have Rooftop Solar? The Number is Growing ... - 9/4/14 - Remember when the most likely place to glimpse solar in action was the little strip attached to a pocket calculator? Well, fortunately solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies have come a long way, and now it's common to see PV panels on residential and commercial rooftops around the country. <http://blog.ucsusa.org/how-many-homes-have-rooftop-solar-644>

SNL - BNSF says rebuilding all utility coal stockpiles may take until 2016 - 9/4/14 - BNSF Railway Co., the most scrutinized railroad during this period of rail network issues, assuaged

some fears but acknowledged more work ahead due to a large upcoming harvest, booming crude oil hauls, rail maintenance needs and the impact from weather disruptions.

<http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/Article.aspx?cdid=A-29075924-13859>

Omaha World Herald - 'The whole system is suffering': Words of frustration, caution at hearing on rail delays - 9/5/14 - Farmers and grain shippers in Iowa and Nebraska, states little affected by rail delays so far, should be paying attention to the shipping problems that have plagued North Dakota, said one of the nation's top advocates for train customers.

http://www.omaha.com/money/the-whole-system-is-suffering-words-of-frustration-caution-at/article_b218773e-3433-11e4-a4bd-001a4bcf6878.html

Inside Climate - Frack-Free Leaders in Illinois, Hedging Their Bets, Shelve Calls for Ban - 9/4/14 - Grassroots activists joined mainstream environmental organizations to help force the state to write tougher fracking rules; some aren't pleased about it.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140904/frack-free-leaders-illinois-hedging-their-bets-shelve-calls-ban>

The Hill - Obama to launch climate contest for cities - 9/4/14 - The White House is preparing a contest to showcase local government efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216710-obama-to-launch-climate-contest-for-cities>

Midwest Energy News - Survey: Midwesterners not buying 'wind turbine syndrome' - 9/05/14 - Science has frequently rejected arguments that wind turbines pose a threat to human health. And now the verdict is in both in the courts of legal and public opinion on the matter, according to a recent study and poll. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/09/05/survey-midwesterners-not-buying-wind-turbine-syndrome/>

Argus Leader (Sioux City, S.D.) - Keystone XL needs new S.D. permits; may reignite debate - 9/5/14 - The Canadian company seeking to build the politically contentious Keystone XL pipeline plans to reapply for permits from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission within the next two weeks. <http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2014/09/05/keystone-xl-needs-new-sd-permits-debate-may-reignite/15114375/>

Bloomberg - Keystone XL Route Runs Through Nebraska Top Court - 9/4/14 - The course of TransCanada Corp. (TRP)'s proposed \$5.4 billion Keystone XL pipeline runs through Nebraska's highest court, which can either speed the project on to U.S. President Barack Obama or delay it indefinitely. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-05/keystone-xl-route-runs-through-nebraska-top-court.html>

The Hill - Green group mocks GOP investigation of EPA climate rule - 9/4/14 - The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) mocked congressional Republicans' investigation of that group's potential collusion with federal regulators Thursday. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216653-green-group-mocks-gop-investigation-of-epa-climate-rule>

The Hill - Inhofe blasts EPA plan to regulate methane emissions - 9/4/14 - Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using "outdated" data when proposing emission caps on the oil and natural gas sectors. <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/216707-inhofe-blasts-epa-plan-to-regulate-methane-emissions>

Bloomberg - Dirtiest U.S. Coal Becoming Most Popular on EPA Rules - 9/5/14 - The dirtiest coal in the U.S. is becoming the most popular, thanks to tightening emission standards forcing power plants to reduce pollutants. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-05/dirtiest-u-s-coal-becoming-most-popular-on-epa-rules.html>

Politico - Hillary Clinton talks climate change, gas and exports to friendly energy crowd - 9/4/14 - Hillary Clinton expounded on climate change, energy exports, natural gas drilling and green energy Thursday — all while managing to play it safe. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/hillary-clinton-harry-reid-national-clean-energy-summit-110621.html>

Forbes - U.S. Economy Has Gotten Lift By Going Deep To Retrieve Natural Gas - 9/5/14 - The U.S. economy has gotten a lift by going deep, all to retrieve natural gas deposits that are fueling American industry and electric generation. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2014/09/05/u-s-economy-has-gotten-lift-by-going-deep-to-retrieve-natural-gas/>

Detroit Public Television (TBS) – Ohio State scientists study runoff to stop toxic algae in

the Great Lakes – 9/4/14 - Yesterday, the EPA announced it will distribute \$12 million to educate farmers and improve water quality in the region. Detroit Public Television's Christy McDonald speaks with scientists about their search for a solution to runoff-fueled toxins. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/michigan-scientists-study-runoff-stop-toxic-algae-great-lakes/>

Grist - What do the new climate rules have to do with my kid's asthma? - 9/5/14 - One of the Environmental Protection Agency's top selling points for its recently proposed carbon pollution rules for power plants is that they will make immediate improvements to our air quality, in addition to reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. <http://grist.org/climate-energy/what-do-the-new-climate-rules-have-to-do-with-my-kids-asthma/>

Environmental Working Group - New Audit Finds EPA's Approach To Reduce Nutrient Pollution Is Ineffective - 9/4/14 - A new audit from Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finds the agency's strategy to reduce nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River Basin and Gulf of Mexico is ineffective. <http://www.ewg.org/release/new-audit-finds-epa-s-approach-reduce-nutrient-pollution-ineffective>

Biofuels Digest - E15 ethanol: a smog, cancer and CO2 reducer, new study concludes - 9/4/14 - In Illinois, a new report concludes that E15 gas rather than regular gas displaces cancer causing emissions from gasoline, and will result in a 6.6% net decrease in cancer risk, a reduction in smog forming potential and a 1.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to regular gasoline which contains 10% ethanol. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/09/04/e15-ethanol-a-smog-cancer-and-co2-reducer-new-study-concludes/>

Environmental Law Prof Blog - Circuit Split on Whether Clean Air Act § 307(b)'s Limitations Are Jurisdictional - 9/4/14 - A Seventh Circuit decision from last week created a circuit split with the D.C. and Tenth Circuits regarding whether the timing and venue requirements under Clean Air Act § 307(b), 42 U.S.C. § 7607(b), for judicial review of EPA decisions under the Act are jurisdictional. http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/environmental_law/2014/09/circuit-split-on-whether-clean-air-act-307bs-limitations-are-jurisdictional.html

NRDC Switchboard (blog) - Democracy 101: Or, What Does David Vitter Want? - 9/4/14 - On Tuesday, NRDC received an investigative letter from Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and four of their colleagues, demanding "all documents and communications"

between NRDC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on carbon emissions from existing power plants and the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska.

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/dgoldston/democracy_101.html

ClimateWire - Study draws connection between polar vortex blasts, melting sea ice - 9/4/14 -

The weather system known as the "polar vortex," which hammered the United States with chilly weather last winter, may become more powerful and common for Northern Hemisphere residents as the world warms, according to a recent study.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005198/>

ClimateWire - Conventional wisdom about CO2 release from permafrost may be wrong, researchers say - 9/4/14 -

Arctic permafrost holds about twice as much carbon as the atmosphere, making its ultimate fate a key factor in the severity and pace of climate change impacts. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005216/>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

9/10/14 - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan.
Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/10/14 – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan),
Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

9/14-17/14 – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M.
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

***10/2/14** – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber,
7487

***10/4/14** – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy,
7782

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and
Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

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10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

***11/18/14** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office.
Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

DRA:

9/16/14 - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact:
Renee McGhee-Lenart

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

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RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

*** 9/30/14 - 10/2/14** - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer
Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

9/10-11/14 – Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) Command Executive Seminar with General Jacoby, Kansas City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

9/18/14 – Northeast Missouri Regional Hazmat Planning Meeting, Macon, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

9/19/14 – Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

WWPD

9/8-11/14 – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

9/9/14 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

***9/10-11/14** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment Geology Seminar presentations, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

9/18-19/14 – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640